of the plants is toxicodendrol, an oily substance which is widely distributed throughout the plants, the most minute amount of which can produce the characteristic poisoning. The contact may be direct or through an intermediate object, as clothing. The smoke from burning rhus may give rise to the poisoning. The matter of individual susceptibility is very important, many persons being practically immune but developing the manifestations of poisoning after prolonged exposure or intense application. The time between exposure and development of symptoms varies from a few hours to five days, depending on the susceptibility of the person, the degree of exposure and the part exposed. A tub bath may be the means of wider distribution of the irritating principle. The clinical manifestations vary somewhat and are not of special importance, being similar to those of other irritant poisons. Prevention may be accomplished, at least in part, by the use of rubber gloves or ordinary gloves, by washing of the exposed part thoroughly with soap and water, being careful not to disseminate the poison. Diluted alcohol is also useful to remove the irritating material. There is no specific treatment and the irritation is essentially self-limiting, usually disappearing in a week or ten days. For relief of itching immersion in hot water is recommended and exposure to air, rather than bandaging, is advised. A 10 per cent. solution of sodium hyposulphite is useful, as is a 1 to 10 dilution in water of the fluid extract of grindelia. Sugar of lead, so long in vogue, is not advised. The blisters may be opened with a needle. Poison ivy and sumac should be destroyed by plowing and cultivation of the land, by repeated mowing of the plants and by sprinkling of the foliage with kerosene. Arsenate of sodium, in the proportion of 2 pounds to 10 gallons of water, is an efficient spray for use when the ivy clings to buildings and fences.

Water-borne Typhoid Fever Outbreak in Tonawanda, New York.—THEODORE HORTON, Chief Engineer, New York State Department of Health (*Public Health Reports*, 1920, xxxv, 391) presents the following conclusions based on data secured from an outbreak of typhoid fever in a community which had been given ample warning of the risk incurred by using an unprotected water supply. From the evidence presented in this report and in the appended tables, it may be concluded: (1) That the outbreak of typhoid in Tonawanda, herein described, was due to an intensive infection of the public water supply, following the breaking of the intake line at a point in the river considerably nearer the American shore than the intake crib. (2) That had a chlorination plant been installed and in proper operation prior to this outbreak, as had been repeatedly recommended by the State Department of Health, the outbreak would not have occurred. (3) That the installation of a chlorination plant resulted in an almost immediate checking of the outbreak and undoubtedly prevented a much more severe outbreak from subsequent leaks in the new intake line when this line was first put into service. (4) That since its installation the chlorination plant has been operated with care and efficiency. (5) That most, if not all, of the local wells in the city of Tonawanda undoubtedly receive gross pollution; and in the case of the Johnson well, it is probable that actual infection occurred. (6) That at certain mills the accessibility of polluted industrial water supplies and their

consequent use for drinking purposes, either through ignorance or carelessness, give opportunity for infection of employees. (7) That while chlorination, if properly supervised, will greatly minimize the danger of infection from the public water supply, it will not improve the physical quality of the supply; and, in the case of the Tonawanda supply, which is at times decidedly turbid, filtration is necessary to produce a supply of a satisfactory physical quality at all times.

Occupation in Relation to Tuberculosis.—KOBER (*Public Health Reports*, 1920, xxxv, 751), after a consideration of some of the general features of his subject, deals with the general subject of indoor life, and points out that by providing ventilation and sufficient space the disadvantages of indoor existence may be overcome. Occupation has marked influences which must be considered in connection with other factors; thus the mortality among those engaged in agricultural pursuits is 8.71 per cent., among bookkeepers and accountants 22.5 per cent., but among Government officials and bankers less than 8.7 per cent., and among draymen, hackmen and teamsters 23.4 per cent. Among dusty occupations, exposure to hard dusts produces a different kind of lung lesion from other dusts, the former being more severe, but all predispose in some degree to tubercle infection, but here again other important factors of environment must play a large part. Throughout the study paradoxical facts were observed, such as the higher rate among male domestic servants as compared with females of the same occupational group, while the reverse hold true in comparing males and females in manufacturing pursuits and in office work.

Dried Milk Powder in Infant Feeding.—Safety, usefulness and comparative value. A preliminary report: PRICE (*Public Health Reports*, 1920, xxxv, 809) fed groups of infants under six months on milk prepared from whole milk powder on that prepared from skimmed milk powder, with the addition of unsalted butter, and, finally, controls on normal grade A milk. The infants were observed over a period of only about three months, but the indications were that the remade milks were satisfactory as infant foods, and indeed, at times, may have points of advantage. The two kinds of remade milk should be labelled to show just what they are and never as natural milk. The tentative conclusions refer to one brand of remade milk only.

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